



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/224,211	12/30/1998	JACK WASSOM	06975/033001	3985

7590 07/05/2002

JOHN F. HAYDEN  
FISH AND RICHARDSON P.C.  
601 THIRTEENTH STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

HAILU, TADESSE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

25

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/224,211

Applicant(s)  
Jack Wassom et al.

Examiner  
Tadesse Hailu

Art Unit  
2173



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 1, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-19, 24-30, 32-47, and 52-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-19, 24-30, 32-47, and 52-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2173

---

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action (which is a replacement of the last Office action) is in response to CPA Request dated 2/1/2002

*Status of the claims*

2. Claims 3, 20-23, 31, 48-51 have been canceled, and claims 1, 2, 4-19, 24-30, 32-47, and 52-60 are pending.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1, 2, 4-19, 24-30, 32-47 and 52-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carpenter et al. (WO 97/34388) and Johnson et al (5,600,776).**

Carpenter et al. ("Carpenter") relates to user interface, wherein there is a system and method defining themes or graphical objects based on a common user interface for interacting with a computer information service.

Johnson relates to data processing systems, and in particular to a method of, and apparatus for, providing automatic user interface object organization.

Art Unit: 2173

---

Per claims 1, 28 and 29:

once a user is identified as a kid or parent grouping, the system of Carpenter automatically provides a set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping (see Fig. 1B), also, Carpenter's user interface does disclose a Main Menu screen (topics/action screen) as shown in Figs. 1B.

Carpenter does not explicitly disclose accessing user information in a database based on the user identifier, instead Carpenter determines or receives identification of a user based on a user "*Who Are You*" screen selection, as a "*kid*" or as a "*parent*."

However, Johnson et al discloses a user recognition device 522 (hardware) and a software subroutine (see Figs. 8A and 10A), to uniquely identifying a user. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate Johnson's user recognition means in place of "*Who Are You*" screen of Carpenter because knowing a user profile or identity will help to monitor and to provide the associated set of controls to the said user. Johnson further discloses automatically reorganizing user interface objects for multiple users. Moreover, Carpenter and Johnson further disclose automatically associating a grouping with the user id by selecting grouping a "*kid*" or a "*parent*" among the two groups (kid, parent) based on the user profile (see Carpenter: Fig. 1B).

Per claims 2 and 30:

Art Unit: 2173

---

Carpenter and Johnson further disclose that displaying the set of controls or options under each theme, such as topics/action options (Main Menu) (see Carpenter: page 6, lines 7-23, & Fig. 1A-C).

Per claims 4 and 32:

Carpenter and Johnson further disclose that the user interface controls include a configurable button (see Carpenter: page 6, lines 1-6, & Fig. 1A-C).

Per claims 5 and 33:

Carpenter and Johnson further disclose that the user interface includes a pull-down menu control (see Carpenter: Fig. 1B).

Per claims 6 and 34:

Carpenter and Johnson further disclose a customized control interface wherein the controls may be configured differently for a different theme (Carpenter: page 3, line 17-page 4, line 8, page 7, lines 1-19, page 11, lines 1-9).

Per claims 7-10, 35-38:

Carpenter and Johnson further disclose determining display characteristics and customizing display elements such as modifying user interface control (see Johnson: col 3, lines 11-58).

Per claims 11-13 and 39-41:

Carpenter and Johnson further disclose a specific demographic group such as adults, kids, or teens (see Carpenter: page 5, lines 3-8, Page 8, lines 1-6).

Art Unit: 2173

---

Per claims 14 and 42:

Carpenter and Johnson further disclose that controlling content in a number of ways such as access control via inclusion/exclusion of content pointers from various menus for a specific demographic group (Carpenter: page 17, lines 11-22).

Per claims 15-17 and 43-45:

Carpenter and Johnson further disclose that information service system further provides e-mail, network browsing and chat services (see Carpenter: page 16, lines 20-page 17, lines 10, Figs 1A-C, and Fig. 4).

Per claims 18, 19 and 46, 47:

Carpenter and Johnson further disclose receiving user information via a network connection and based on the received user information content determining the group (Carpenter: Fig. 4, page 16, lines 20-page 17, lines 22).

Per claims 24-26 and 52-54:

Carpenter and Johnson further disclose a "Log in Screen" to identify a user and associating such user to a group of users such as demographic group such as adults, kids, or teens. Selection of one of these groups is also shown. Carpenter and Johnson further disclose the grouping identification user characteristic such as age, and each group has identifying services user permitted to access (see Carpenter: Fig. 1A-C, pages 6, lines 7-page 8, line 14, 19, page 9, lines 3-13).

Per claims 27 and 55:

Art Unit: 2173

---

Carpenter and Johnson further provide receiving information from a remote site describing the set of user interface controls (Carpenter: Fig. 4, page 16, line 20-page 17, line 23 ).

Per claims 56 and 57:

Carpenter and Johnson disclose that the user maturity includes age (demographic group such as adults, kids, or teens) (Carpenter: page 5, lines 3-8, page 8, lines 2-6).

Per claims 58-60:

Carpenter and Johnson disclose associating a group with a user profile (such as a kid or parent) (Carpenter: page 6, lines 7-page 8, lines 14, page 9, lines 3-13).

### ***Conclusion***


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to *Tadesse Hailu*, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2799. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 - 7:30 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, *John Cabeca*, can be reached at (703) 308-3116 Art Unit 2173 CPK 2-4A51

6. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

---

*Tadesse Hailu*

1 July 2002

  
**RAYMOND J. BAYERL**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
**ART UNIT 2173**

Application/Control Number: 09224211

Page 7

Art Unit: 2173

---